

**In the Abstract**

(currently amended) The invention relates to an optical instrument, in particular an endoscopic instrument, with a housing (1), containing at least one optical system (2) and a hygroscopic substance, and in which an eyepiece (6) is detachably secured to the housing (1). In order to design an optical instrument of the aforementioned type in such a way that the hygroscopic substance can be integrated easily and safely into the housing (1), the invention proposes that the hygroscopic substance should be imbedded in a moldable matrix material and that the matrix material caulked with the hygroscopic substance can be replaceably inserted in the eyepiece (6).